A

LETTER

From the NOBILITY, BARONS & COMMONS of *SCOTLAND*, in the Year 1320, yet extant under all the Seals of the NOBILITY:

DIRECTED TO

POPE IOHN:

Wherein they declare their firm Resolutions, to adhere to their King ROBERT *the* BRUCE, *as the Restorer of the Safety, and Liberties of the People, and as having the true Right of* Succession: *But withall, They notwithstanding Declare, That if the* King *should offer to subvert their Civil Liberties, they will disown him as an* Enemy, *and choose another to be* King, *for their own Defence.*

Translated from the Original, in *Latine*, as it is insert by Sr. *George Mckenzie* of *Rosehaugh*, in his Observations on Precedency, *&c.*

Edinburgh, Re-printed in the Year 1689.

UMI

A Letter from the Nobility, Barons *and* Commons *of* SCOTLAND, *in the Year* 1320, *yet extant under all the* Seals *of the* Nobility, *&c.*

SAnctissimo Patri in CHRISTO ac Domino, Domino *Joanni*, Divinâ Providentiâ Sacrosanctæ Romanæ & Universalis Ecclesiæ summo Pontifici, Filii sui humiles & devoti, *Duncanus* Comes de Fyfe, *Thomas* Ranulphi Comes Moraviæ, Dominus Mannniæ, & Vallis Anandiæ, *Patricius* de Dumbar, Comes Marchiæ, *Malisius* Comes de Strathern, *Malcolmus* Comes de Levenox, *Willielmus* Comes de Rofs, *Magnus* Comes Cathaniæ & Orcadiæ, & *Willielmus* Comes Sutherlandiæ, *Walterus* Senescallus Scotiæ, *Willielmus* de Soules Buttelarius Scotiæ, *Iacobus* Dominus de Dowlgas, *Rogerus* de Moubray, *David* Dominus de Brechine, *David* de Grahame, *Ingelarmus* de Umfravile, *Ioannes* de Menteith Custos Comitatus de Menteith, *Alexander Frazer*, *Gilbertus* de Haiâ Constabularius Scotiæ, *Robertus* de Keith Mariscallus Scotiæ, *Henricus* de Sanctoclaro, *Ioannes* de Grahame, *David* de Lindesey, *Willielmus Oliphant*, *Patricius* de Grahame, *Ioannes* de Fenton, *Willielmus* de Abernethie, *David* de Weyms, *Willielms* de Monte fixo, *Fergusius* de Ardrosin, *Eustachius* de Maxwell, *Willielmus* de Ramsay, *Willielmus* de Monte alto, *Alanus* de Moraviâ, *Dovenaldus Campbell*, *Ioannes Camburn*, *Reginaldus* le Chen, *Alexander* de Seton, *Andreas* de Lescelyne, & *Alexander* de Straton, cæterique Barones & Libere-tenentes, ac tota Communitas Regni *Scotiæ*, omnimodam Reverentiam filialem, cum devotis pedum osculis beatorum. Scimus sancti-

TO our most holy Father in Christ, and our Lord, *ohn*, by the Divine providence, chief Bishop of the most *holy Roman*, & *Universal Church*, Your Humble and Devoted Sons, *Duncan* Earle of *Fyfe*, *Thomas Randolph* Earle of *Murray*, Lord of *Mannia*, and *Annandale*, *Patrick* de *Dunbar*, Earle of *March*, *Malisius* Earle of *Strathern*, *Malcolm*, Earle of *Lennox*, *William* Earle of *Rofs*. *Magnus*, Earl of *Casthness*, and *Orkney*, *William*, Earle of *Sutherland*, *Walter* Steward of *Scotland*, *William* de *Soules*, Buttelarius of *Scotland* *James* Lord of *Douglas*, *Roger* de *Mowbray*, *David* Lord of *Brechin*, *David* de *Graham*, *Ingelramus* de *Umfravile*, *John* de *Monteith*, Warder of the Countie of *Monteith*, *Alexander Frazer*, *Gilbert* de *Hay*, Constable of *Scotland*, *Robert* de *Keith*, Marishal of *Scotland*, *Henry* de *Sancto-Claro*, John de *Graham*, *David* de *Lyndsay*, *William Oliphant*, *Patrick* de *Graham*, *John* de *Fenton*, *William* de *Abernethie*, *David* de weyms, *William* de *Monte-fixo Fergus*, de *Ardrosan*, *Eustachius* de *Maxwel*, *William* de *Ramsay*, William de *Monte-alto*, *Allan* de *Murray*, *Donald Campbel*, *John Camburn*, *Reginald* le *Chene* *Alexander* de *Seton*, *Andrew* de *Lescelyne*, and *Alexander* de *Straton*. And the rest of the Barons and free-holders, and whole community, or Commons of the Kingdom of *Scotland*, Send all manner of filial reverence, with devout kisses, of your Blessed, and happy feet.

Most holy *Father* and Lord, we know, and ga-

sanctissime Pater & Domine, & ex antiquorum Gestis & Libris colligimus, quod inter cæteras Nationes egregias, nostra sciz. *Scotorum* Natio, multis Præconiis fuerit insignita: Quæ de majori Scythia per mare Tirenum, & Columnas Herculis transiens, & in Hispania inter ferocissimos, per multa temporum Curricula, residens, à nullis quantumcunque Barbaricis poterat alicubi subjugari; Indeque veniens, post mille & ducentos annos à transitu populi Israelitici, sibi sedes in Occidente quas nunc obtinet, expulsis Britonibus, & Pictis omnino deletis, licet per Norwegienses, Danos, & Anglos sæpius impugnata fuerit, multis sibi Victoriis, & Laboribus quamplurimis adquisivit; ipsaque ab omni servitute liberas ut priscorum testantur historiæ, semper tenuit. In quorum Regno, centum & tresdecem Reges de ipsorum Regali prosapia, nullo alienigena interveniente Regnaverunt. Quorum Nobilitates & merita, licet ex aliis non clarerent, satis tamen patenter effulgent, ex eo quod Rex Regum Dominus IESUS CHRISTUS, post Passionem & Resurrectionem suam, ipsos in ultimis Terræ finibus constitutos, quasi primos, ad suam Fidem Sanctissimam, convocavit: Nec eos, per quemlibet in dictâ fide, confirmari voluit, sed per suum primum Apostolum, quamvis Ordine secundum vel tertium, sanctum *Andream* meritissimum beati *Petri* Germanum, quem semper ipsis præesse voluit ut Patronum. Hæc autem sanctissimi Patres & Predecessores vestri solicita mente pensantes, ipsum Regnum & Populum, ut beati *Petri* Germani peculium, multis favoribus & privilegiis quamplurimis munierunt. Itaque Gens nostra, sub ipsorum protectione, libera hactenus deguit & quieta

ther from ancient acts, and records, that in every famous Nation, this of *Scotland* hath been celebrat with many praises: This *Nation* having come from *Sythia* the greater, through the *Tuscan* Sea, and by *Hercules* pillars, and having for many ages taken its residence in *Spain* in the midst of a most fierce people, could never be brought in Subjection by any people, how Barbarous soever: And having removed from these parts, above 1200 years after the coming of the *Israelites* out of *Egypt*, did by many Victories and much toile, obtain these parts in the West, which they still possess, having expelled the *Britons*, and intirely rooted out the *Picts*, notwithstanding of the frequent assaults, and invasions they mett with from the *Norwegians*, *Danes*, and *English*; And these parts, and possessions they have always retained free from all manner of Servitude, and Subjection, as ancient Histories do witness.

This *Kingdom* hath been governed by an uninterupted succession of 113 Kings all of our own Native & Royal stock, without the interveening of any stranger.

The true Nobilty and Merits of those *Princes* and people, are very remarkable, from this one consideration, (tho' there were no other evidence for it, That the *King* of *Kings*, the *Lord Jesus Christ*, after his passion, and Resurrection, honoured them as it were the first, (though living in the outmost ends of the Earth) with a *Call* to his most *holy Faith*: Neither would our *Saviour* have them confirmed in the *Christian Faith*, by any other Instrument, than his own first *Apostle*, (tho' in order the second or third) St. *Andrew* the most worthy Brother of the Blessed *Peter*, whom he would alwayes have to be over us, as our patron, or protector.

Upon the weighty Consideration of these things our most holy *Fathers*, your Predecessors, did with many great and singular favours and priviledges, fence, and secure this *Kingdom*, and *People* as being the peculiar charge, and care, of the Brother of St. *Peter*; so that our Nation hath hitherto lived in freedom and quietness, under their

quieta; donec ille Princeps Magnificus Rex *Anglorum Edvvardus*, Pater istius qui nunc est, Regnum nostrum Acephalum, Populumq; nullius mali aut doli conscium, nec Bellis aut insultibus tunc assuetum, sub amici & confœderati specie, innumerabiliter infestavit: Cujus Injurias, Cædes & violentias, Prædationes, Incendia, *P*relatorum Incarcerationes, Monasteriorum Combustiones, Religiosorum Spoliationes, & Occisiones, alia quoque Enormia, quæ in dicto populo exercuit, nulli parcens Ætati aut Sexui, Religioni aut Ordini, nullus scriberet, nec ad plenum intelligeret, nisi quem Experientia informaret. A quibus malis innumeris, ipso juvante qui post vulnera medetur & sanat, Liberati sumus per serenissimum *P*rincipem, Regem & Dominum nostrum, Dominum *Robertum*, qui pro *P*opulo & Hæreditate suis, de Manibus inimicorum liberandis, quasi alter *Maccabæus*, aut *Josue* Labores & Tædia, Inedias & *P*ericula, læto sustinuit animo: Quem etiam Divina Dispositio, & juxta Leges & Consuetudines nostras, quas usque ad mortem sustinere volumus, juris Successio, & debitus nostrorum Consensus & Assensus, nostrum fecerunt *P*rincipem atque Regem. Cui tanquam illi per quem salus in Populo facta est pro nostra Libertate tuenda, tam Jure quam Meritis tenemur, & volumus in omnibus adhærere. Quem, si ab inceptis desisset, Regi *Anglorum* aut *Anglicis* nos, aut Regnum nostrum volens subjicere, tanquam inimicum nostrum, & sui nostrique Juris subversorem statim expellere niteremur; & alium Regem nostrum, qui ad defensionem nostram sufficiet, faciemus: Quia quamdiu *Anglorum* dominio aliquatenus volumus subjugari. Non enim propter Gloriam Divitias aut Honores pugnamus, sed propter Libertatem solummodo, quam nemo bonus nisi simul cum vita amittit. Hinc est, Reverende Pater ac Domine, quod

protection, till the *Magnificent, King Edvvard* Father to the present *King* of *England*, did under the colour of Friendship, and allyance, or confederacie, with innumerable oppressions infest us who minded no fraud or deceit, at a time when we were without a *King* or *Head*, and when the People were unacquainted with warres and invasions. It is impossible for any whose ovvn experience hath not informed him to describe, or fully to understand, the injuries, Blood, and violence, the depredations and fire, the imprisonments of *P*relates, the burning, slaughter and robberie committed upon holy persons and Religious Houses, and a vast multitude of other Barbarities, vvhich that *King* execute on this People vvithout sparing of any Sex, or age, Religion, or order of men vvhatsoever.

But at length it pleased God, vvho only can heal after vvounds, to restore us to Libertie, from these innumerable calamities, by our most *Serene Prince King and Lord Robert*, vvho for the delivering of his People and his ovvn Rightful Inheritance from the Enemies hand, did like another *Josua, or Maccabeus* most chearfully undergo all manner of toyle fatigue, hardship, and hazard. The Divine Providence, the right of *Succession* by the Lavvs and Customs of the Kingdom (vvhich vve vvill defend till death) and the due and Lawfull Consent, & Assent of all *the* People, made him our *King* and *Prince*. To him vve are oblidged, and resolved to adhere in all things, both upon the account of his right, and his ovvn merit, as being the person vvho hath restored the people's safety, in defence of their Liberties. But after all, if this *Prince* shall leave these principles he hath so nobly pursued, and consent that vve or our Kingdom be Subjected to the King or people of England, vve vvill immediatly endeavour to expell him, as our *Enemy* and as the *Subverter*, both of his ovvn and our rights, and vvill make another *King*, vvho vvill defend our Liberties: For so long as there shall but one hundred of us remain alive, vve vvill never give consent to subject our selves to the *Dominion* of the *English*. For it is not *Glory*, it is not *Riches*, neither is it *Honour*, but it is *Liberty* alone that vve fight, and contend for, vvhich no Honest man vvill lose, but vvith his life.

For these reasons, *most Reverend Father* and *Lord*,

UMI

Quod Sanctitatem vestram, cum omni Præcum instantiâ, Genu flexis Cordibus exoramus; Quatenus sincero corde, menteque piâ recensentes, quod apud eum cujus vices in terris geritis, non sic pondus, & pondus, nec distinctio Judei & Græci, Scoti aut Anglici, tribulationes & angustias nobis & Ecclesiæ DEI illatas ab Anglicis, paternis oculis intuentes; Regem Anglorum, cui sufficere debet quod possidet, cum olim Anglia septem aut pluribus solebat sufficere Regibus, monere & exhortari dignemini, ut nos Scotos in exili degẽtes Scotiâ ultra quam habitatio non est, nihilq; nisi nostrum cupientes in pace dimittat. Cui pro nostrâ procurrandâ quiete quicquid possumus, ad statum nostrum respectu habito, hoc facere volumus cum effectu. Vestra enim interest, Sancte Pater, hoc facere, qui Paganorum feritatem, Christianorum culpis exigentibus, in Christianos sævientem aspicitis, & Christianorum terminos arctari indies: Quare ne quid vestræ Sanctitatis memoriæ deroget, & si, quod absit, Ecclesia in aliqua sui parte vestris temporibus patiatur Ecclipsin aut Scandalum, vos videritis. Exhortet igitur Christianos principes, qui, non causam ut causam ponentes, se fingunt in subsidium Terræ sanctæ, propter guerras quas habent cum proximis ire non posse: Cujus impedimenti causa est verior, quod, in minoribus proximis debellandis, utilitas propior & resistentia debilior æstimantur. Sic quam læto corde dictus Dominus Rex noster, & nos, si Rex Anglorum nos in pace dimittet, illuc iremus; qui nihil ignoret satis novit: Quod

We do with most earnest prayers, from our bended Knees and Hearts, beg, and entreat, your *Holiness*, that you may be pleased with a sincere, and cordial piety, to consider, that with *him*, whose Vicar on Earth you are, there is no respect nor distinction of *Jews*, nor *Greek*, *Scots*, nor *English*, and that with a tender and Fatherly eye, you may look upon the calamities, and straits, brought upon us, and the Church of God by the English; and that you may admonish, and exhort the *King* of *England*, (who may well rest satisfied with his own possessions, since that *Kingdom* of old used to be sufficient for seven or moe Kings) to suffer us to live at peace in that narrow spot of *Scotland*, beyond which we have no habitation, since we desire nothing but our own, and we on our part, as farr as we are able, with respect to our own condition, shall effectually agree to him in every thing that may procure our quiet.

It is your concernment, *Most Holy Father*, to interpose in this, when you see how farr the Violence, and Barbaritie of the Pagans is let loose to rage against Christendom for punishing of the sins of the Christians, and how much they dayly encroach upon the Christian Territories. And it is your interest to notice, that there be no ground given for reflecting on your memory, if you should suffer any part of the Church, to come under a scandal, or Ecclipse (which we pray God may prevent) during your times.

Let it therefore please your *Holiness*, to exhort the Christian Princes, not to make the warres betwixt them and their Neighbours, a pretext for not going to the relief of the *Holy Land*, since that is not the true cause of the impediment: The truer ground of it is, that they have a much nearer prospect of advantage, and farr less opposition, in the subduing of their weaker Neighbours. And God (who is Ignorant of nothing) knows, with how much chearfulness, both our King, and we could goe thither, if the King of *England* would leave us in peace, and we doe hereby testifie and declare it to the *Vicar* of *Christ*, and to all Christendom.

But, if your *Holyness*, shall be too credulous of the English misrepresentations, and not give firm credit to what we have said, nor desist to favour the

CHRISTI Vicario totique Christianitati ostendimus & testamur. Quibus si Sanctitas vestra Anglorum relatibus nimis credula, fidem sinceram non adhibat, aut ipsis

sis in nostram confusionem favere non desinat; corporum excidia, animarum exitia, & cætera quæ sequentur incommoda, quæ ipsi in nobis, & nos in ipsis fecerimus, vobis ab Altissimo credimus imputanda. Ex quo sumus & erimus in his quæ tenemur, tanquam obedientiæ filii, vobis tanquam ipsius Vicario in omnibus complacere; ipsique tanquam summo Regi & Judici, causam nostram tuendam committimus: Cogitatum nostrum jactantes in ipso, sperantesque finem, quod in nobis virtutem faciet, & ad nihilum rediget hostes nostros. Serenitatem & Sanctitatem vestram conservet Altissimus Ecclesiæ suæ sanctæ per tempora diuturna. Datum apud Monasterium de *Aberbrothock* in *Scotia*, sexto die *Aprilis*, Anno Gratiæ milesimo trecentesimo vicesimo, Anno vero Regni Regis nostri supradicti, quintodecimo.

English, to our destruction; wee must believe that the *Most High* will lay to your charge, all the Blood, loss of Souls, and other calamities that shall follow on either hand, betwixt us and them.

Your *Holiness* in granting our just desires, will oblidge us in every case, where our duty shall require it, to endeavour your satisfaction, as becomes the obedient Sons of the *Vicar* of *Christ*.

We commit the defence of our cause, to him who is the Soveraigne *King* and *Judge*, we cast the burden of our cares upon him, and hope for such an issue as may give strength, and courage to us, and bring our Enemies to nothing. The *most High God long preserve your Serenity, and Holyness to his Holy* Church.

Given at the Monastry of *Aberbrothock* in *Scotland*, the Sixth day of *April*, in the year of *Grace* M. CCC. XX. And of our said King's reign the XV. year.

FINIS